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KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

LOCKE & KEY

JOE HILL
GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ
JAY FOTOS

DETECTIVES

Part I

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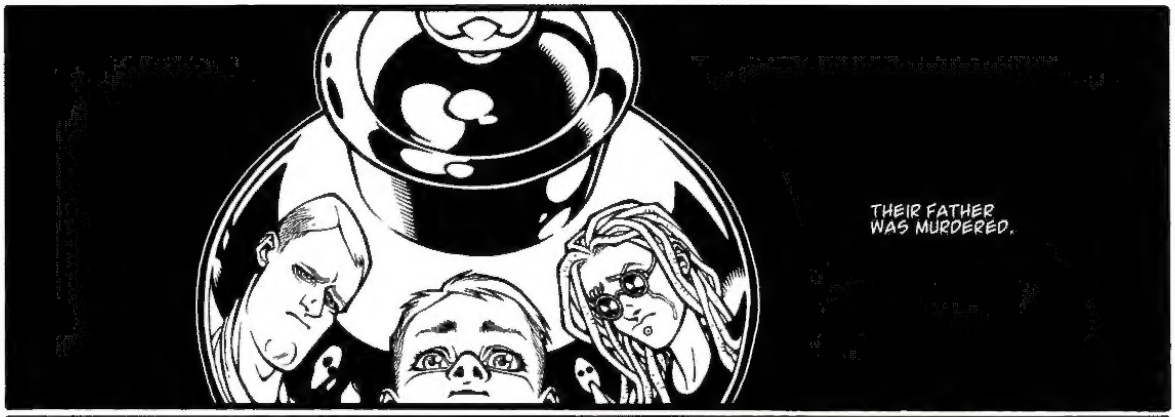

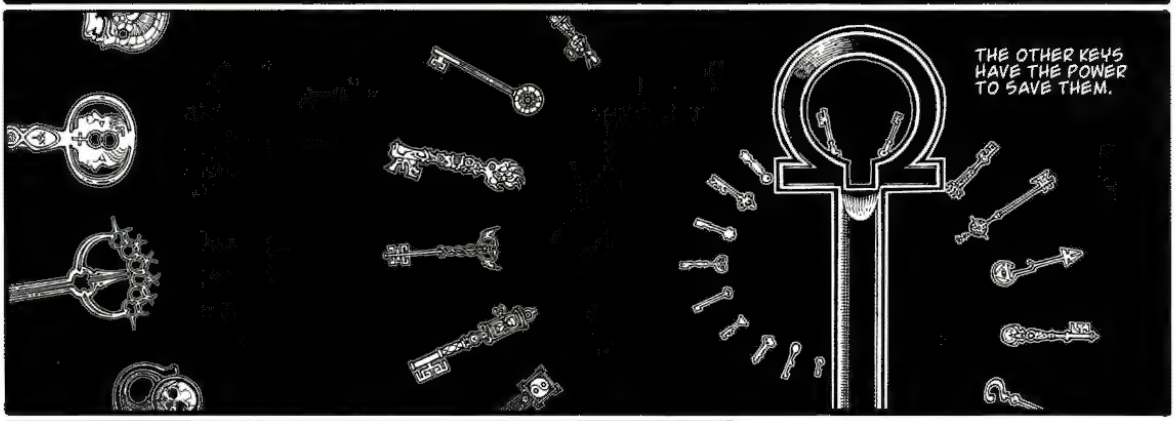

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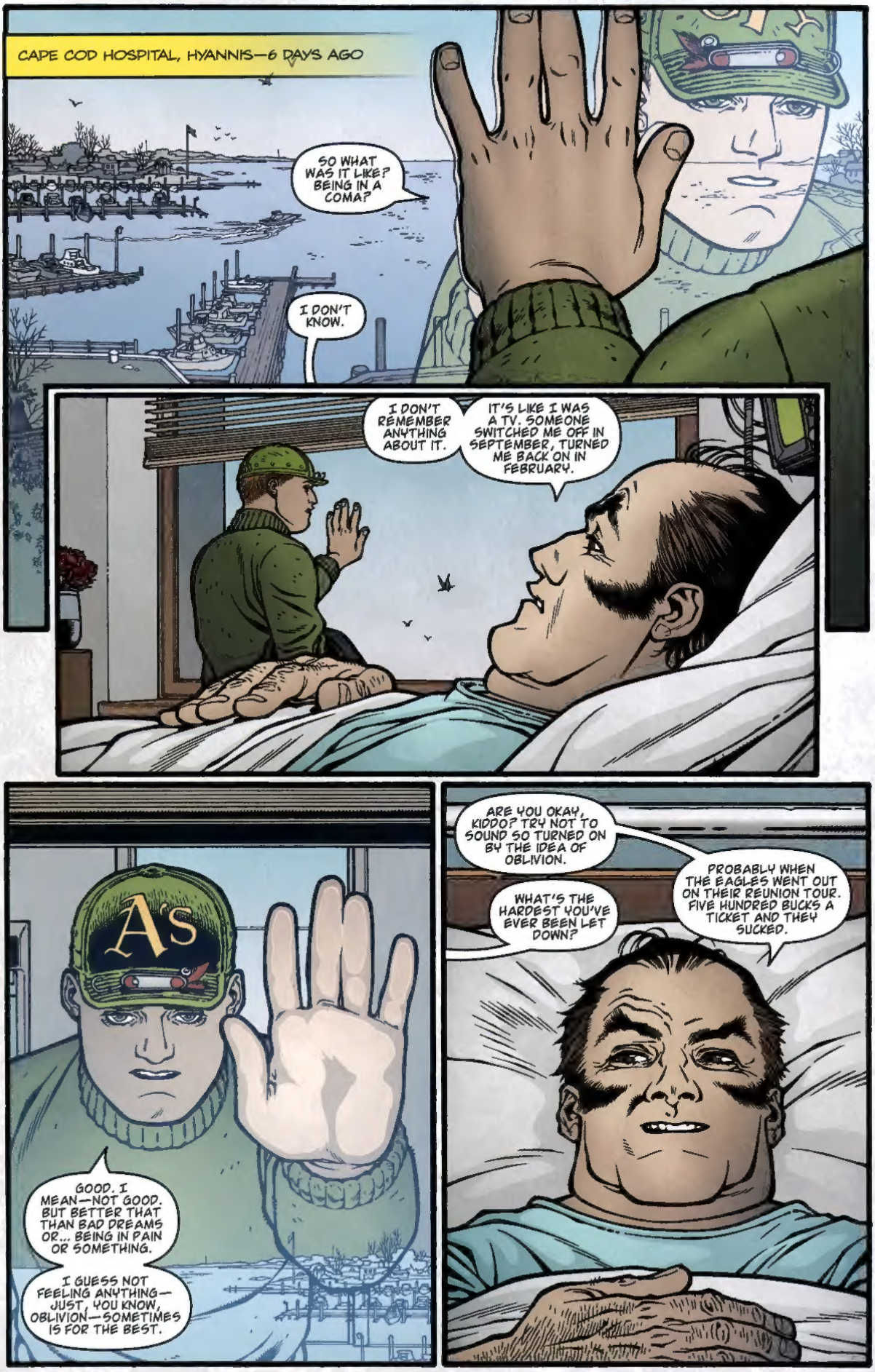
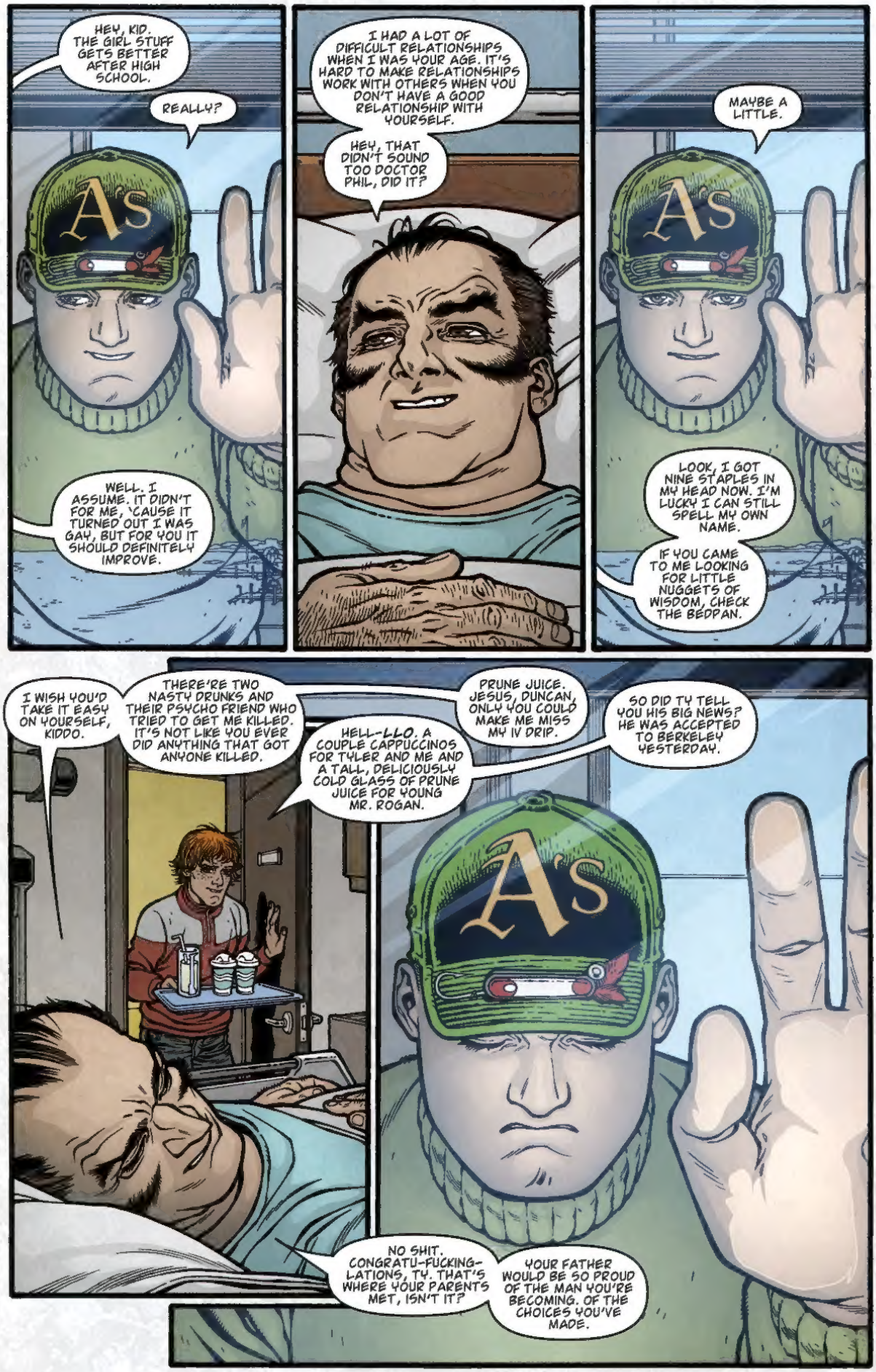
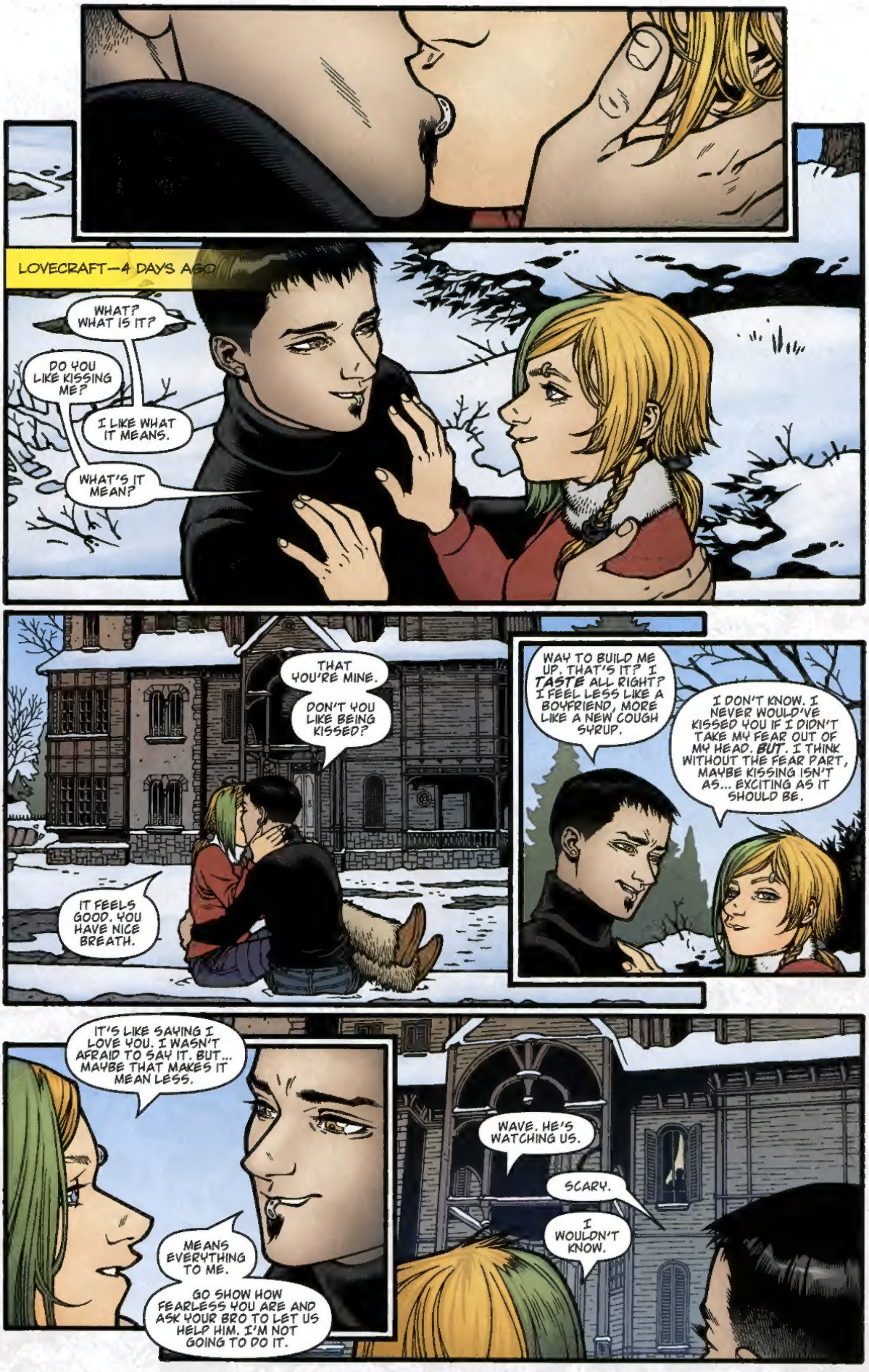
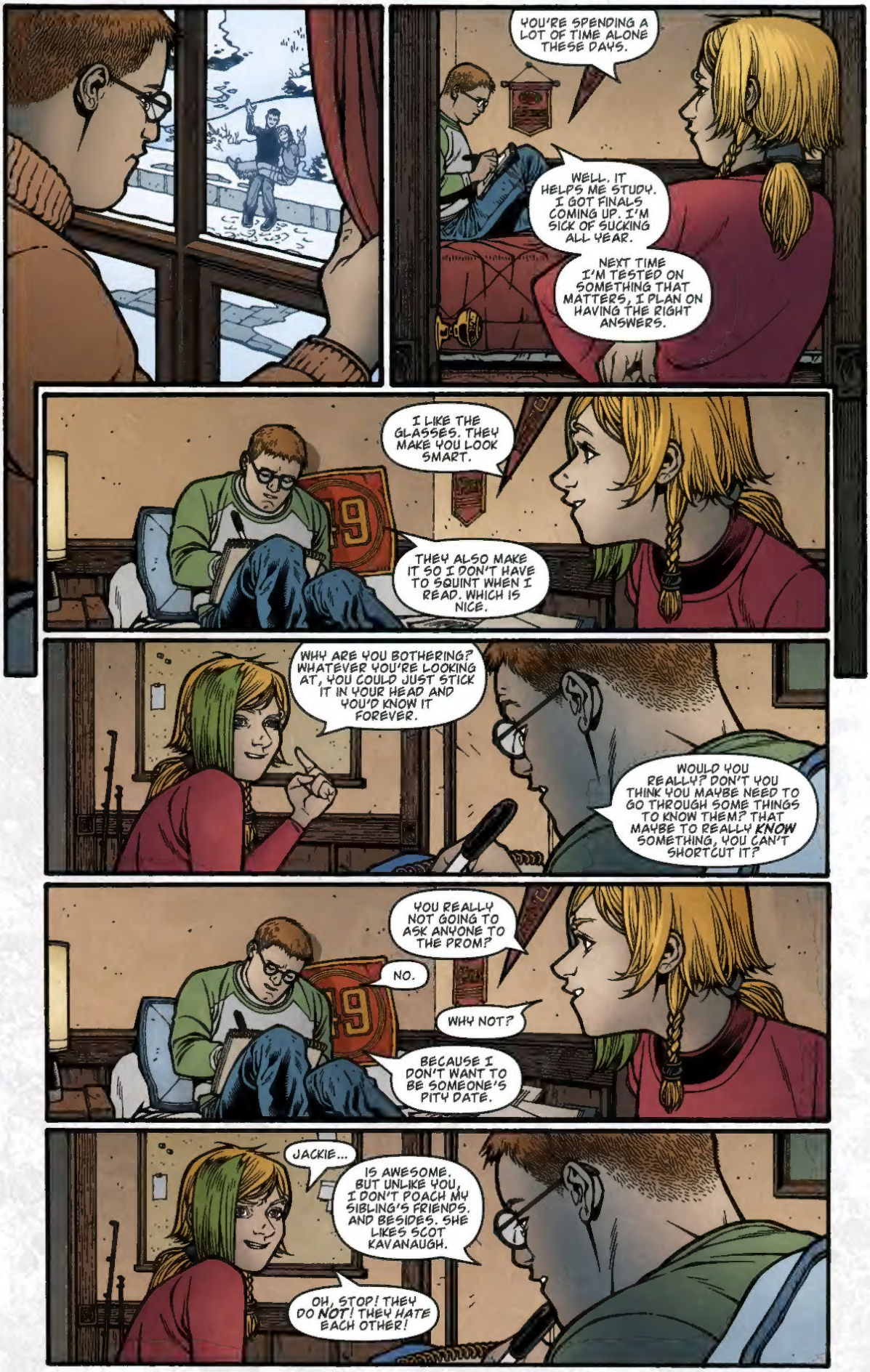
EN GARDE.
PRETS?
ALLEZ.

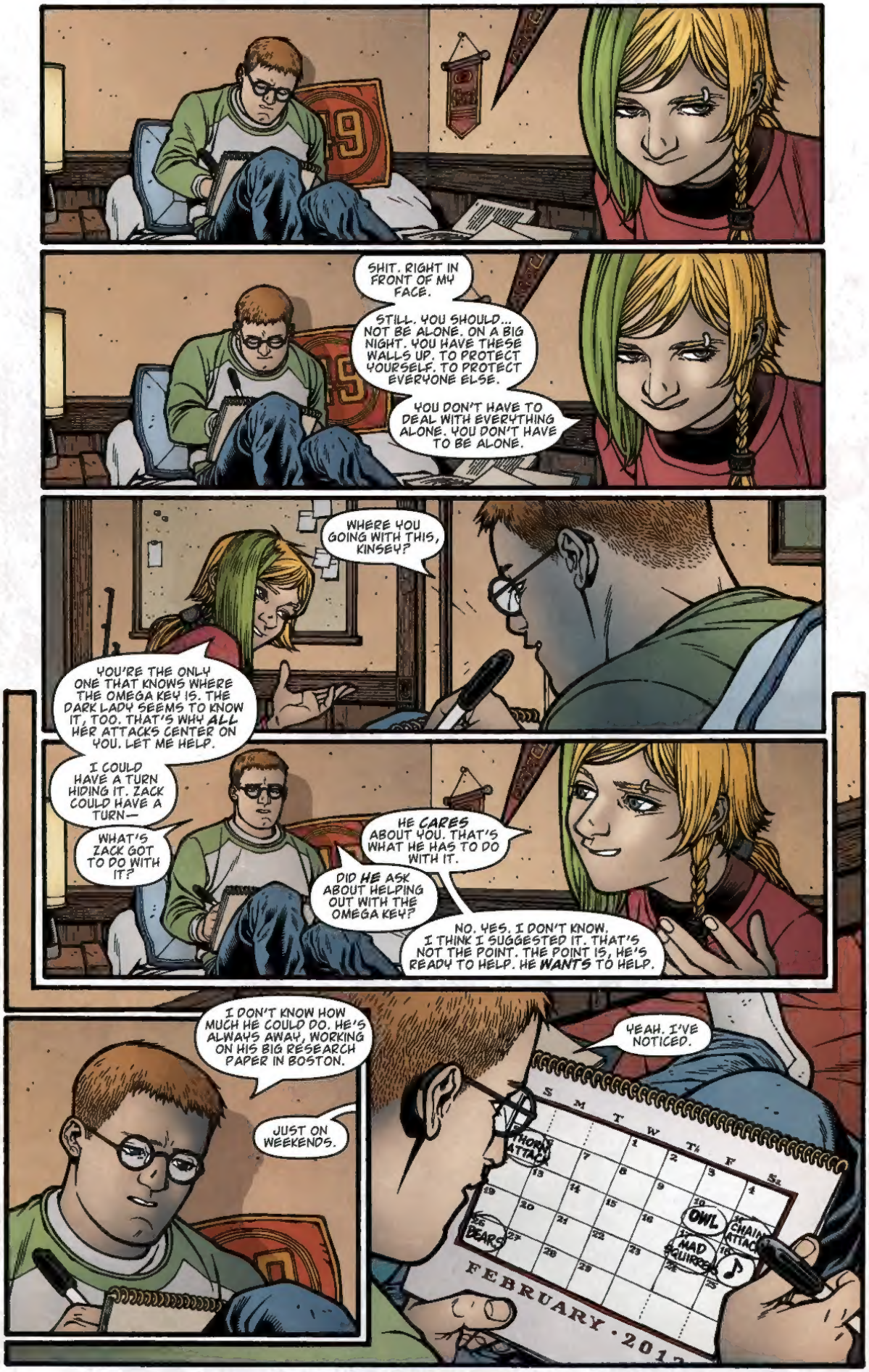

CAPE COD HOSPITAL, HYANNIS—6 DAYS AGO
SO WHAT WAS IT LIKE? BEING IN A COMA?
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
IT'S LIKE I WAS A TV. SOMEONE SWITCHED ME OFF IN SEPTEMBER, TURNED ME BACK ON IN FEBRUARY.
GOOD. I MEAN—NOT GOOD. BUT BETTER THAT THAN BAD DREAMS OR... BEING IN PAIN OR SOMETHING.
I GUESS NOT FEELING ANYTHING—JUST, YOU KNOW, OBLIVION—SOMETIMES IS FOR THE BEST.
ARE YOU OKAY, KIDDO? TRY NOT TO SOUND SO TURNED ON BY THE IDEA OF OBLIVION.
WHAT'S THE HARDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN LET DOWN?
PROBABLY WHEN THE EAGLES WENT OUT ON THEIR REUNION TOUR. FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS A TICKET AND THEY SUCKED.

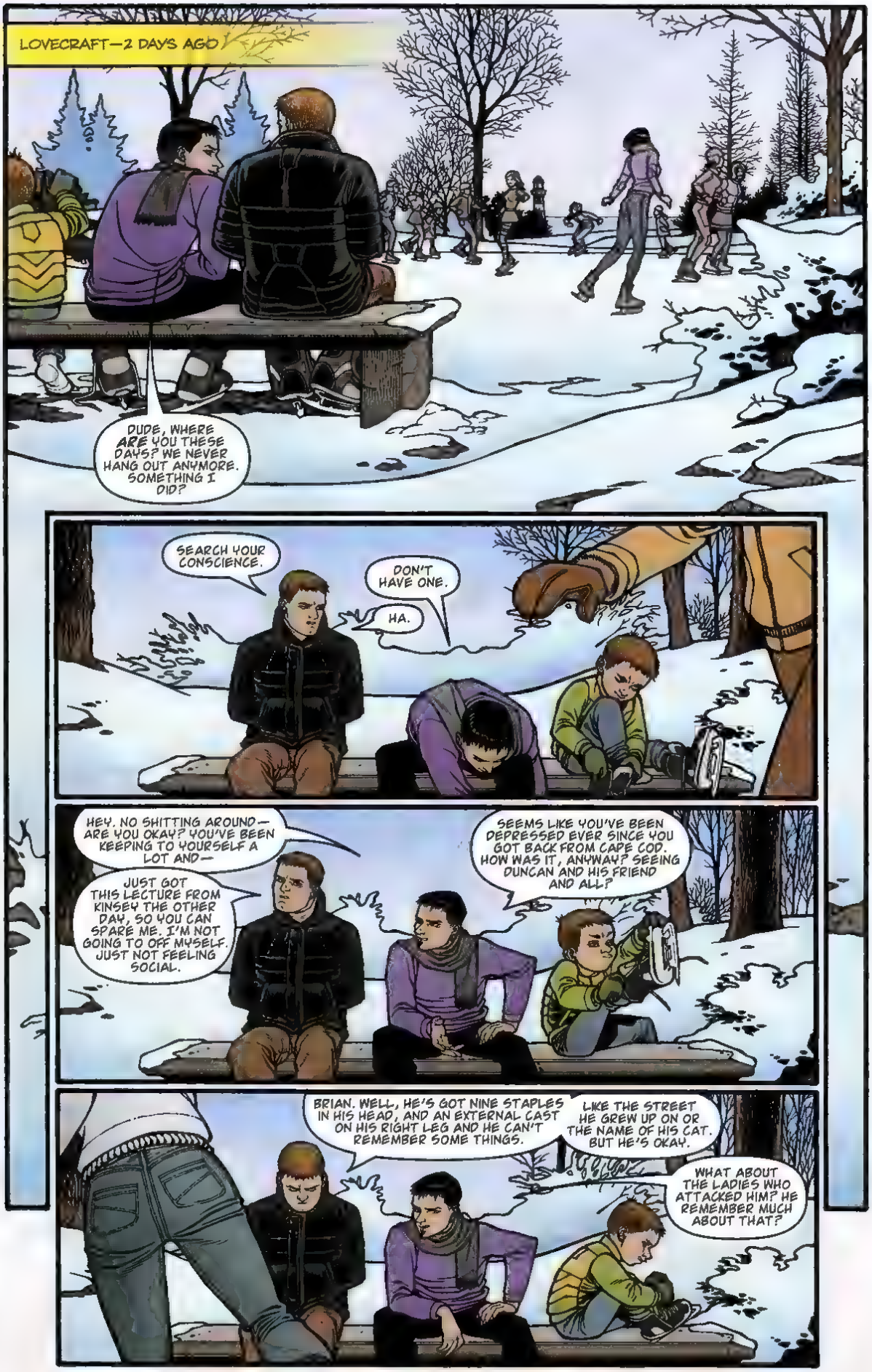

HEY, KID. THE GIRL STUFF GETS BETTER AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.
REALLY?
WELL. I ASSUME. IT DIDN'T FOR ME, 'CAUSE IT TURNED OUT I WAS GAY, BUT FOR YOU IT SHOULD DEFINITELY IMPROVE.
I HAD A LOT OF DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIPS WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE. IT'S HARD TO MAKE RELATIONSHIPS WORK WITH OTHERS WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOURSELF.
HEY, THAT DIDN'T SOUND TOO DOCTOR PHIL, DID IT?
MAYBE A LITTLE.
LOOK, I GOT NINE STAPLES IN MY HEAD NOW. I'M LUCKY I CAN STILL SPELL MY OWN NAME.
IF YOU CAME TO ME LOOKING FOR LITTLE NUGGETS OF WISDOM, CHECK THE BEDPAN.
I WISH YOU'D TAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF, KIDDO.
THERE'RE TWO NASTY DRUNKS AND THEIR PSYCHO FRIEND WHO TRIED TO GET ME KILLED. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU EVER DID ANYTHING THAT GOT ANYONE KILLED.
HELL-LLO. A COUPLE CAPPUCCINOS FOR TYLER AND ME AND A TALL, DELICIOUSLY COLD GLASS OF PRUNE JUICE FOR YOUNG MR. ROGAN.
PRUNE JUICE. JESUS, DUNCAN, ONLY YOU COULD MAKE ME MISS MY IV DRIP.
SO DID TY TELL YOU HIS BIG NEWS? HE WAS ACCEPTED TO BERKELEY YESTERDAY.
NO SHIT. CONGRATU-FUCKING-LATIONS, TY. THAT'S WHERE YOUR PARENTS MET, ISN'T IT?
YOUR FATHER WOULD BE SO PROUD OF THE MAN YOU'RE BECOMING. OF THE CHOICES YOU'VE MADE.

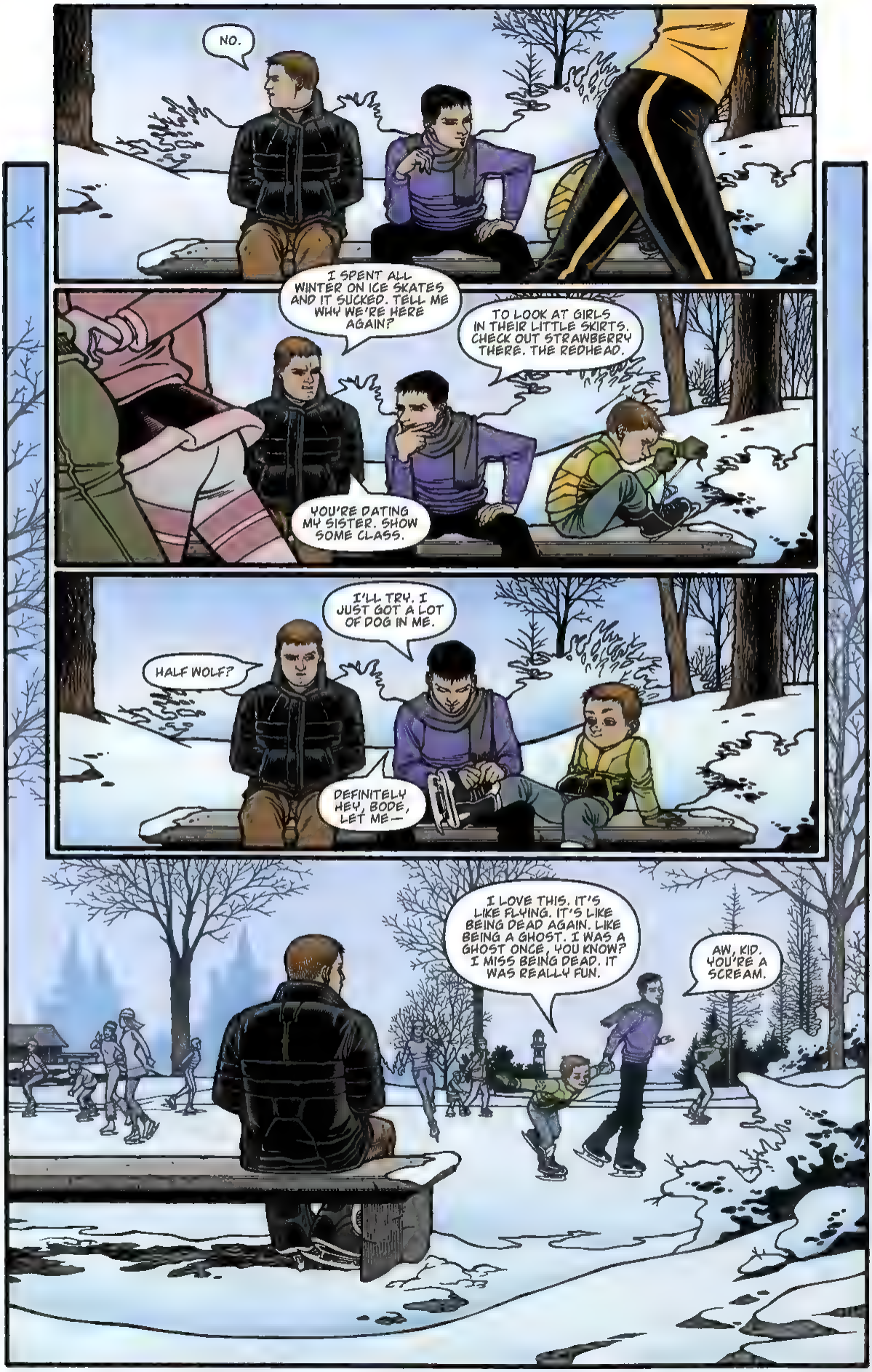
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S GOING TO BE FIVE MORE WEEKS BEFORE I CAN BRING HIM HOME. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S BEEN IN THAT LITTLE HOSPITAL ROOM FIVE MONTHS.
ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, THOSE BRAINLESS BITCHES WHO RAN HIM DOWN ARE GOING TO BE IN A LITTLE ROOM FOR FIVE YEARS, RIGHT?
BALANCE.
THEY COULD HAVE HALF THAT IF THEY'D MAKE A DEAL, TELL US ABOUT THE GUY WHO CAME IN THE HOUSE WITH A GUN. BUT THEY'RE PLAYING STUPID.
I'M SURPRISED THE COPS CAN'T FIND HIM BASED ON BRIAN'S DESCRIPTION.
ACH. THERE'RE A THOUSAND DUDES ON CAPE COD WHO LOOK LIKE THE GUY BRIAN SAW. BLACK HAIR. EARLY TWENTIES—MAYBE A TEENAGER EVEN. NOSE RING.
YEAH, BUT STILL. IT'S GOT TO BE SOMEONE THE GIRLS KNEW. A BOYFRIEND OR SOMEONE. A NOSE RING, THAT'S A PRETTY DISTINCTIVE DETAIL.
NOPE. DOESN'T MATCH ANY OF THEIR RELATIVES OR FRIENDS OR—YOU KNOW, I THINK IT WAS A LIP RING, ACTUALLY.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT BRIAN SAID. RING IN HIS LOWER LIP.
OH, WELL. IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS. NOT LIKE WE CAN TRACK THE GUY DOWN. WHAT ARE WE, DETECTIVES?

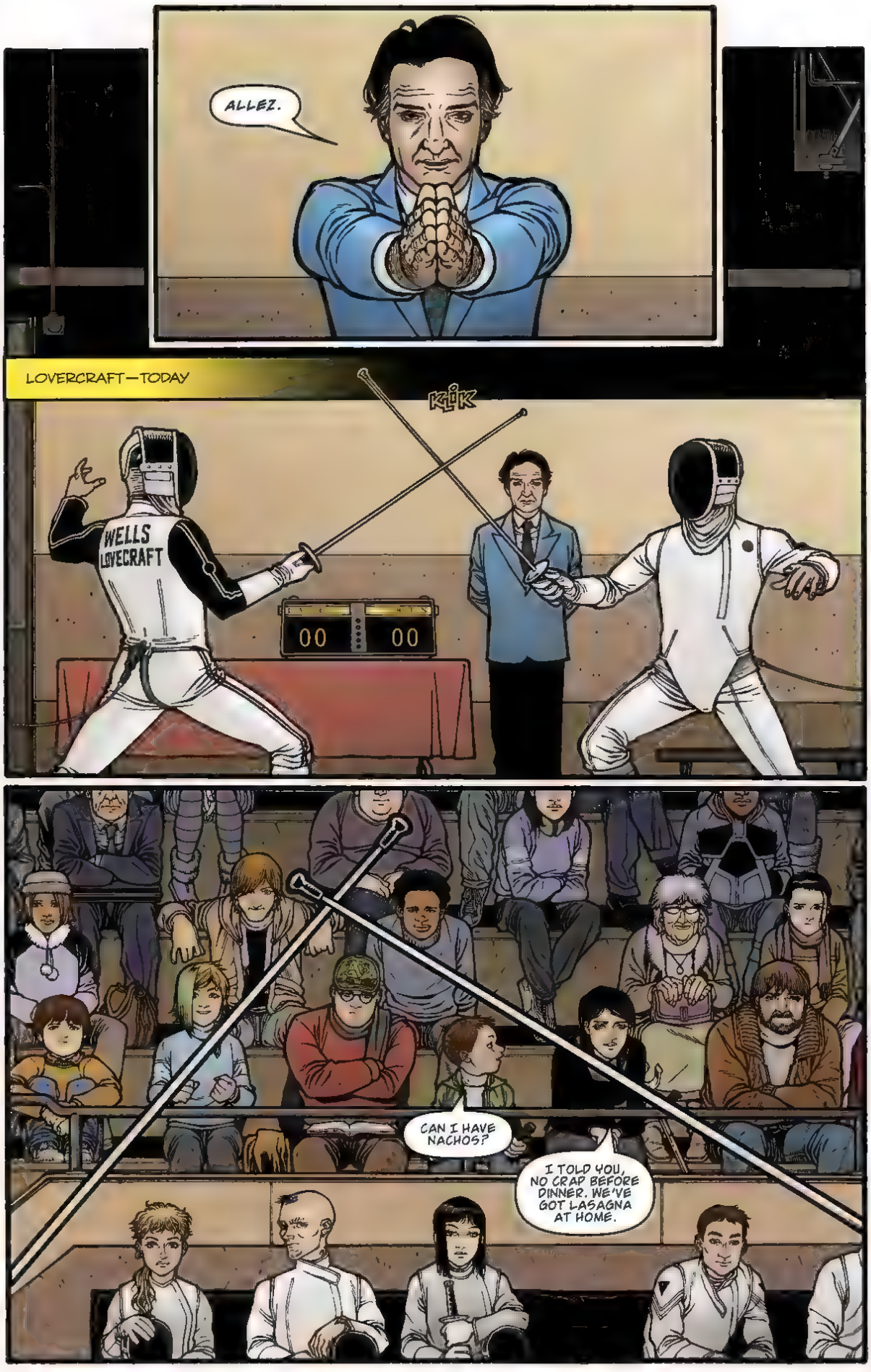

LOVECRAFT—4 DAYS AGO
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU LIKE KISSING ME?
I LIKE WHAT IT MEANS.
WHAT'S IT MEAN?
THAT YOU'RE MINE.
DON'T YOU LIKE BEING KISSED?
IT FEELS GOOD. YOU HAVE NICE BREATH.
WAY TO BUILD ME UP. THAT'S IT? I TASTE ALL RIGHT? I FEEL LESS LIKE A BOYFRIEND, MORE LIKE A NEW COUGH SYRUP.
I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER WOULD'VE KISSED YOU IF I DIDN'T TAKE MY FEAR OUT OF MY HEAD. BUT. I THINK WITHOUT THE FEAR PART, MAYBE KISSING ISN'T AS... EXCITING AS IT SHOULD BE.
IT'S LIKE SAYING I LOVE YOU. I WASN'T AFRAID TO SAY IT. BUT... MAYBE THAT MAKES IT MEAN LESS.
MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME.
GO SHOW HOW FEARLESS YOU ARE AND ASK YOUR BRO TO LET US HELP HIM. I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT.
WAVE. HE'S WATCHING US.
SCARY.
I WOULDN'T KNOW.


YOU'RE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME ALONE THESE DAYS.
WELL, IT HELPS ME STUDY. I GOT FINALS COMING UP. I'M SICK OF SUCKING ALL YEAR.
NEXT TIME I'M TESTED ON SOMETHING THAT MATTERS, I PLAN ON HAVING THE RIGHT ANSWERS.
I LIKE THE GLASSES. THEY MAKE YOU LOOK SMART.
THEY ALSO MAKE IT SO I DON'T HAVE TO SQUINT WHEN I READ. WHICH IS NICE.
WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING? WHATEVER YOU'RE LOOKING AT, YOU COULD JUST STICK IT IN YOUR HEAD AND YOU'D KNOW IT FOREVER.
WOULD YOU REALLY? DON'T YOU THINK YOU MAYBE NEED TO GO THROUGH SOME THINGS TO KNOW THEM? THAT MAYBE TO REALLY KNOW SOMETHING, YOU CAN'T SHORTCUT IT?
YOU REALLY NOT GOING TO ASK ANYONE TO THE PROM?
NO.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO BE SOMEONE'S PITY DATE.
JACKIE...
IS AWESOME. BUT UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T POACH MY SIBLING'S FRIENDS. AND BESIDES, SHE LIKES SCOT KAVANAUGH.
OH, STOP! THEY DO NOT! THEY HATE EACH OTHER!


SHIT. RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY FACE.
STILL. YOU SHOULD... NOT BE ALONE. ON A BIG NIGHT. YOU HAVE THESE WALLS UP. TO PROTECT YOURSELF. TO PROTECT EVERYONE ELSE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH EVERYTHING ALONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE.
WHERE YOU GOING WITH THIS, KINSEY?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT KNOWS WHERE THE OMEGA KEY IS. THE DARK LADY SEEMS TO KNOW IT, TOO. THAT'S WHY ALL HER ATTACKS CENTER ON YOU. LET ME HELP.
I COULD HAVE A TURN HIDING IT. ZACK COULD HAVE A TURN—
WHAT'S ZACK GOT TO DO WITH IT?
HE CARES ABOUT YOU. THAT'S WHAT HE HAS TO DO WITH IT.
DID HE ASK ABOUT HELPING OUT WITH THE OMEGA KEY?
NO. YES. I DON'T KNOW. I THINK I SUGGESTED IT. THAT'S NOT THE POINT. THE POINT IS, HE'S READY TO HELP. HE WANTS TO HELP.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH HE COULD DO. HE'S ALWAYS AWAY, WORKING ON HIS BIG RESEARCH PAPER IN BOSTON.
JUST ON WEEKENDS.
YEAH. I'VE NOTICED.
S M T W T F S
HORSE ATTACK
OWL
CHAIN ATTACK
BEARS
MAD SQUIRREL
FEBRUARY · 201


LOVECRAFT—2 DAYS AGO
DUDE, WHERE ARE YOU THESE DAYS? WE NEVER HANG OUT ANYMORE. SOMETHING I DID?
SEARCH YOUR CONSCIENCE.
DON'T HAVE ONE.
HA.
HEY. NO SHITTING AROUND—ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING TO YOURSELF A LOT AND—
JUST GOT THIS LECTURE FROM KINSEY THE OTHER DAY, SO YOU CAN SPARE ME. I'M NOT GOING TO OFF MYSELF. JUST NOT FEELING SOCIAL.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DEPRESSED EVER SINCE YOU GOT BACK FROM CAPE COD. HOW WAS IT, ANYWAY? SEEING DUNCAN AND HIS FRIEND AND ALL?
BRIAN. WELL, HE'S GOT NINE STAPLES IN HIS HEAD, AND AN EXTERNAL CAST ON HIS RIGHT LEG AND HE CAN'T REMEMBER SOME THINGS.
LIKE THE STREET HE GREW UP ON OR THE NAME OF HIS CAT. BUT HE'S OKAY.
WHAT ABOUT THE LADIES WHO ATTACKED HIM? HE REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT THAT?


NO.
I SPENT ALL WINTER ON ICE SKATES AND IT SUCKED. TELL ME WHY WE'RE HERE AGAIN?
TO LOOK AT GIRLS IN THEIR LITTLE SKIRTS. CHECK OUT STRAWBERRY THERE. THE REDHEAD.
YOU'RE DATING MY SISTER. SHOW SOME CLASS.
I'LL TRY. I JUST GOT A LOT OF DOG IN ME.
HALF WOLF?
DEFINITELY HEY, BODE, LET ME—
I LOVE THIS. IT'S LIKE FLYING. IT'S LIKE BEING DEAD AGAIN. LIKE BEING A GHOST. I WAS A GHOST ONCE, YOU KNOW? I MISS BEING DEAD. IT WAS REALLY FUN.
AW, KID. YOU'RE A SCREAM.


ALLEZ.
LOVERCRAFT—TODAY
KLIK
WELLS
LOVECRAFT
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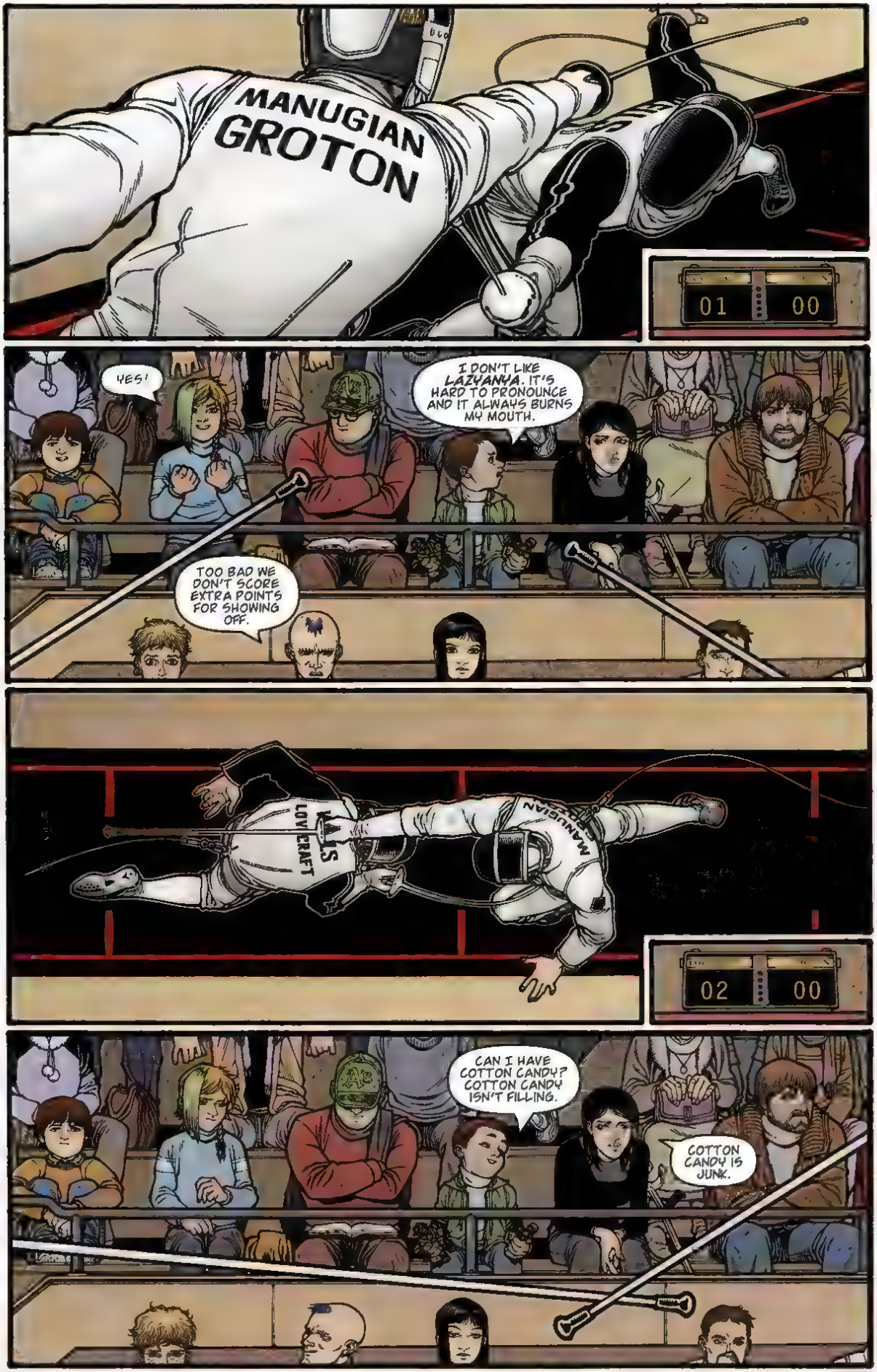
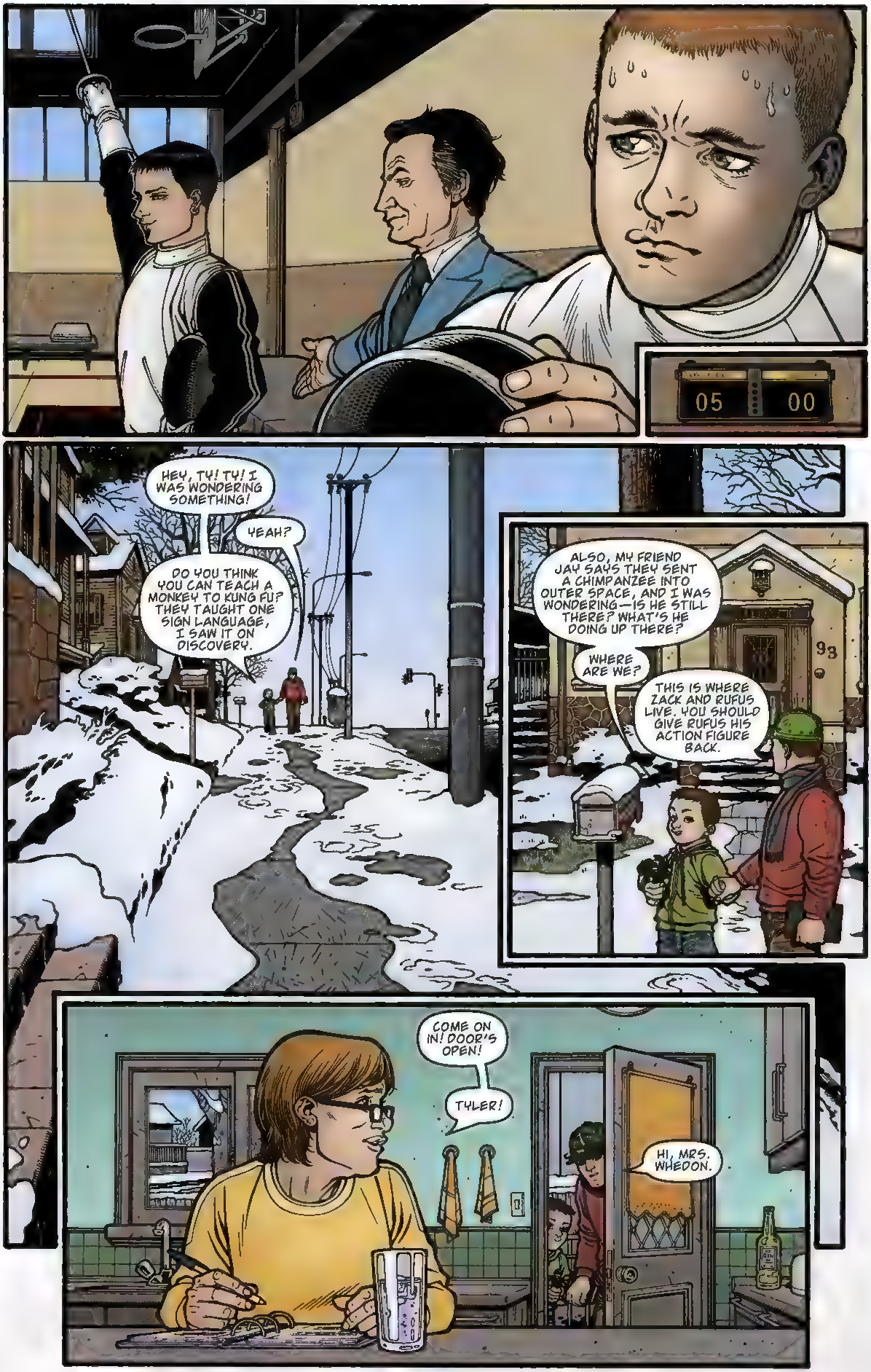
00
CAN I HAVE NACHOS?
I TOLD YOU, NO CRAP BEFORE DINNER. WE'VE GOT LASAGNA AT HOME.


MANUGIAN
GROTON
01
00
YES!
I DON'T LIKE LAZYANYA. IT'S HARD TO PRONOUNCE AND IT ALWAYS BURNS MY MOUTH.
TOO BAD WE DON'T SCORE EXTRA POINTS FOR SHOWING OFF.
LOVECRAFT
MANUGIAN
02
00
CAN I HAVE COTTON CANDY? COTTON CANDY ISN'T FILLING.
COTTON CANDY IS JUNK.

CHIK!
03 00
LOOK, HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO PARRY! DODGE, DODGE, DODGE... ALL ZACK DOES IS DODGE.
HE'S A SLIPPERY WANKER, ALL RIGHT. I'LL GIVE HIM THAT.
UNH!
04 00
I'LL WALK HOME WITH BODE, FIX HIM UP WITH DINNER. IT'S IN THE WARMER, RIGHT?
TYLER, THE TOURNEY JUST STARTED. ZACK HAS TWO MORE MATCHES.
LET ME KNOW HOW ZORRO MAKES OUT, OKAY?


05
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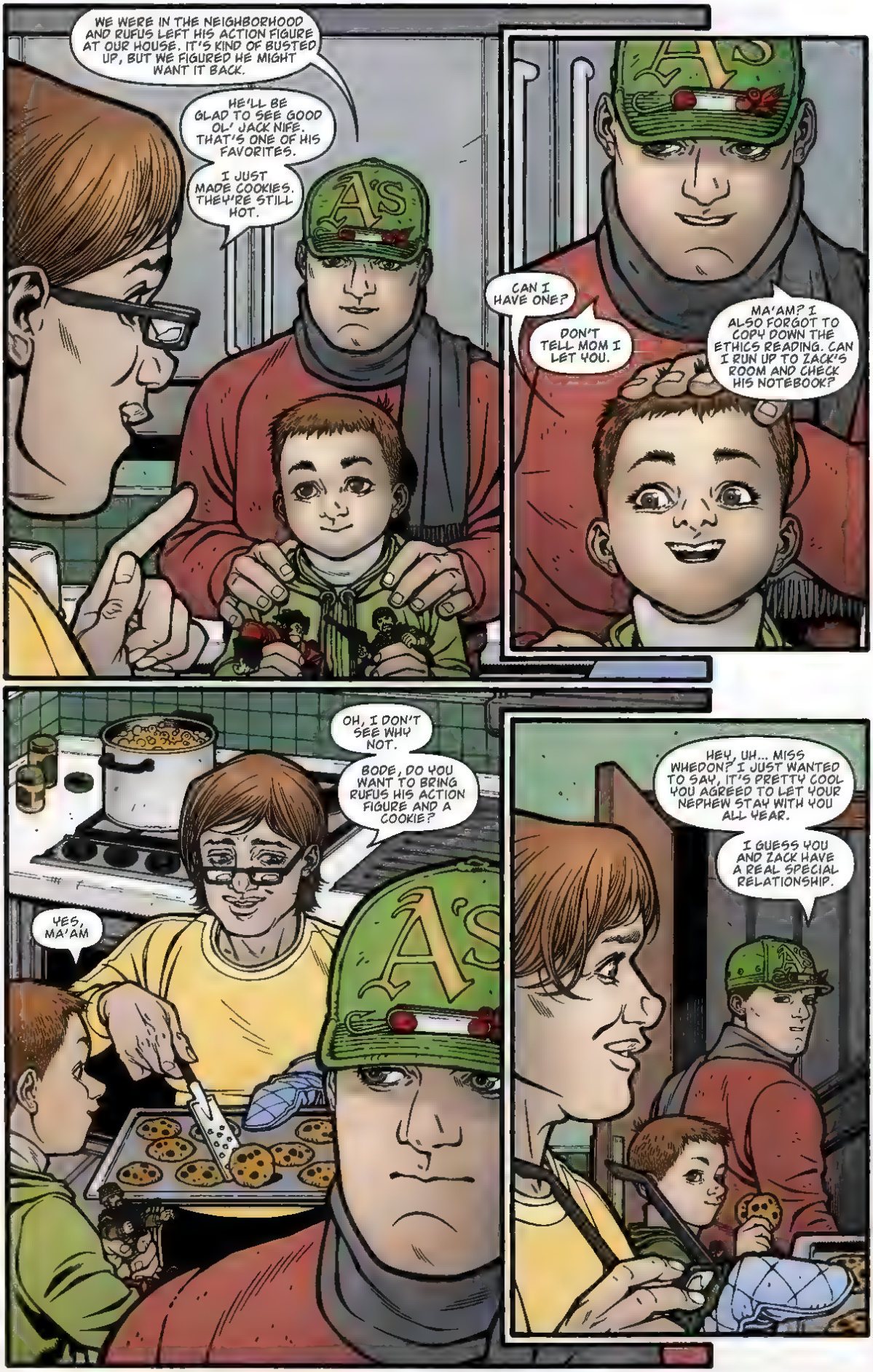
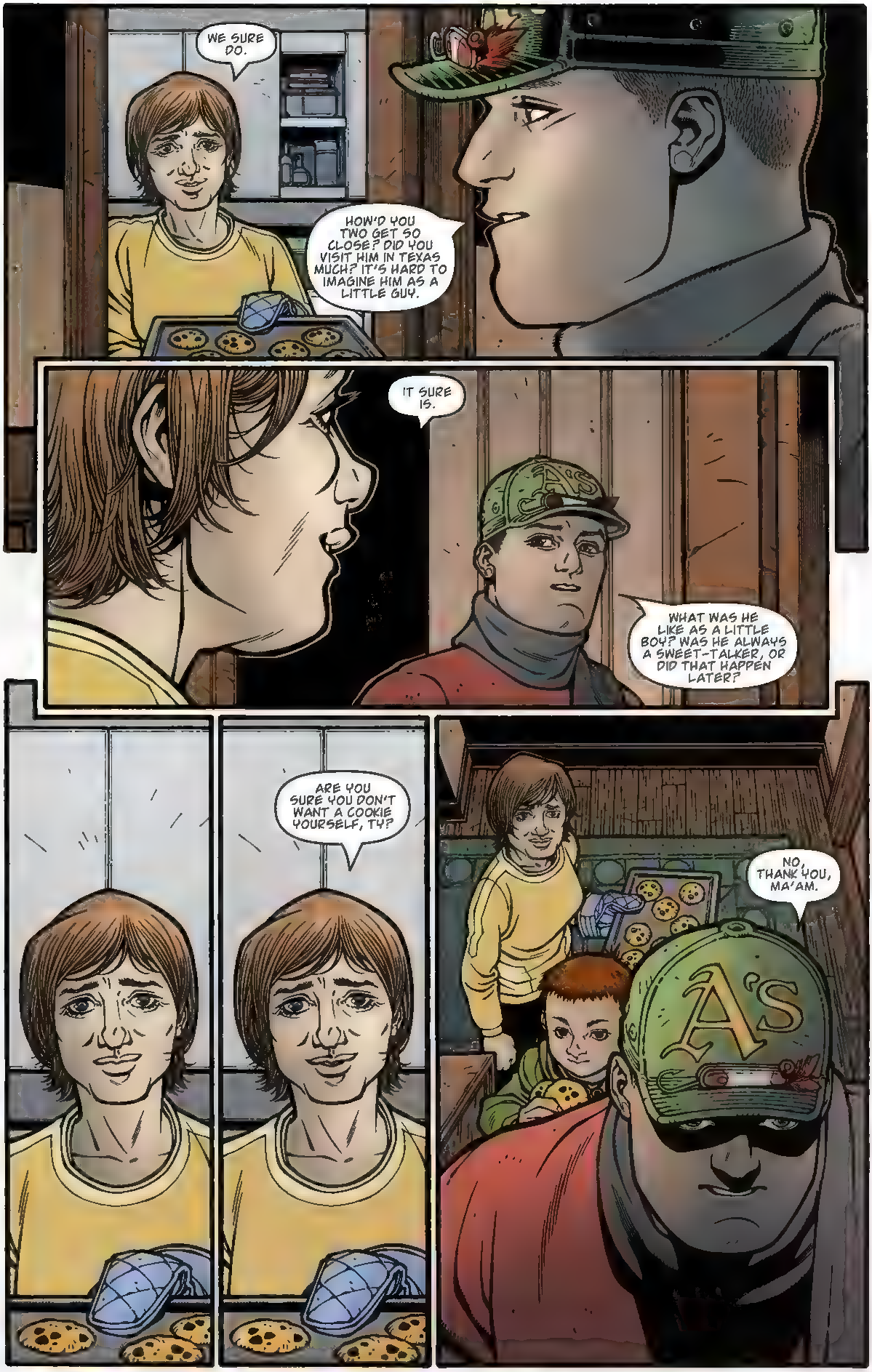
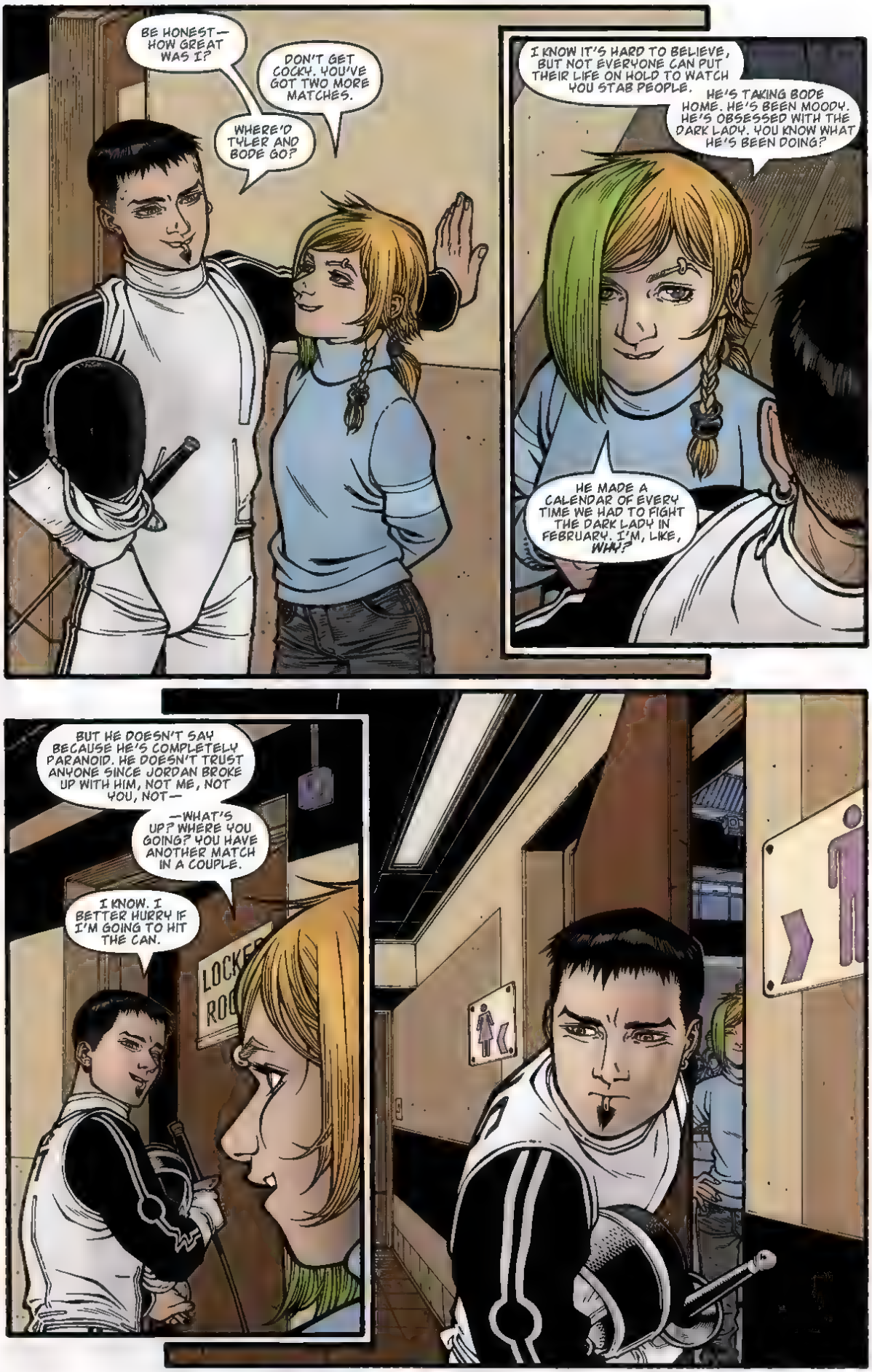
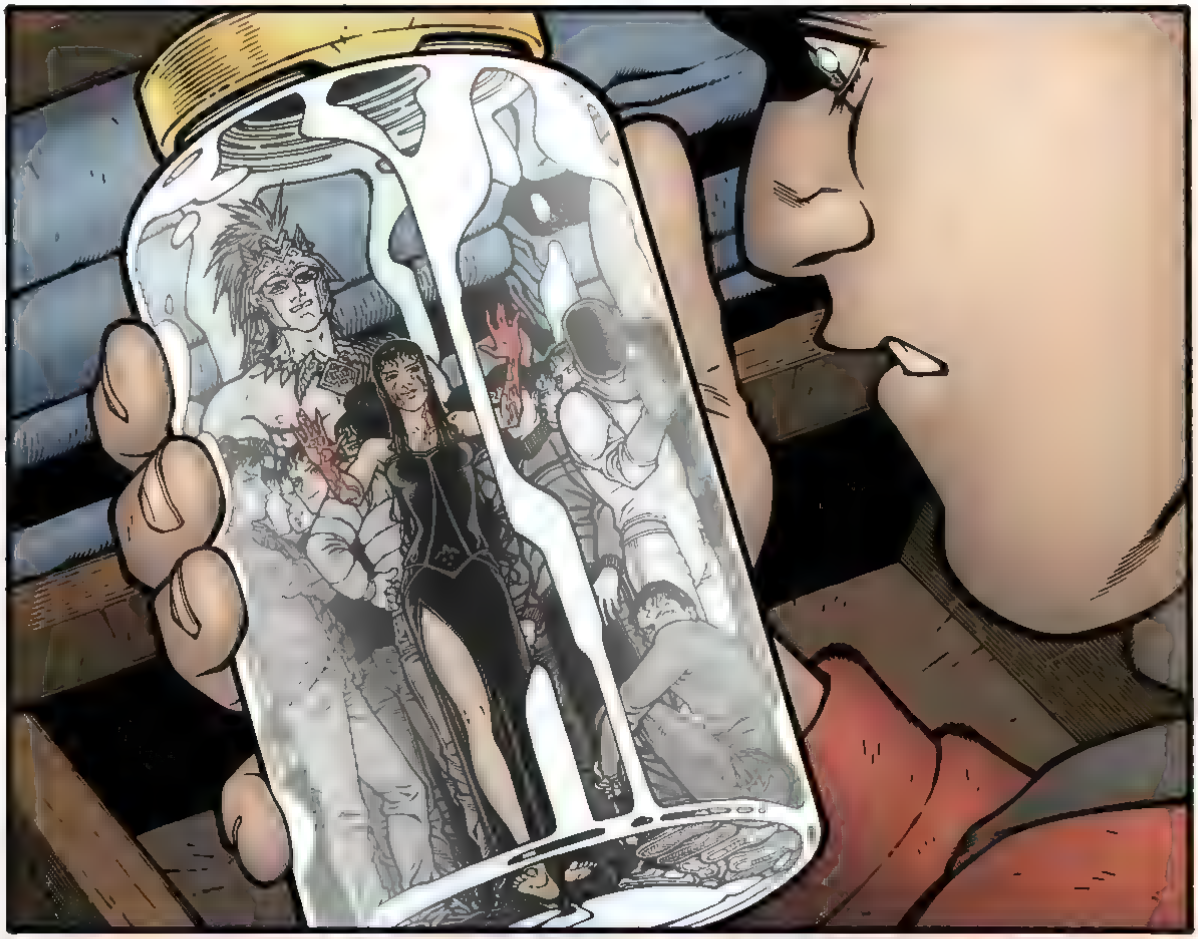
HEY, TY! TY! I WAS WONDERING SOMETHING!
YEAH?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TEACH A MONKEY TO KUNG FU? THEY TAUGHT ONE SIGN LANGUAGE, I SAW IT ON DISCOVERY.
ALSO, MY FRIEND JAY SAYS THEY SENT A CHIMPANZEE INTO OUTER SPACE, AND I WAS WONDERING—IS HE STILL THERE? WHAT'S HE DOING UP THERE?
WHERE ARE WE?
THIS IS WHERE ZACK AND RUFUS LIVE. YOU SHOULD GIVE RUFUS HIS ACTION FIGURE BACK.
93
COME ON IN! DOOR'S OPEN!
TYLER!
HI, MRS. WHEDON.


WE WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND RUFUS LEFT HIS ACTION FIGURE AT OUR HOUSE. IT'S KIND OF BUSTED UP, BUT WE FIGURED HE MIGHT WANT IT BACK.
HE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE GOOD OL' JACK NIFE. THAT'S ONE OF HIS FAVORITES.
I JUST MADE COOKIES. THEY'RE STILL HOT.
CAN I HAVE ONE?
DON'T TELL MOM I LET YOU.
MA'AM? I ALSO FORGOT TO COPY DOWN THE ETHICS READING. CAN I RUN UP TO ZACK'S ROOM AND CHECK HIS NOTEBOOK?
OH, I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.
BODE, DO YOU WANT TO BRING RUFUS HIS ACTION FIGURE AND A COOKIE?
YES, MA'AM
HEY, UH... MISS WHEDON? I JUST WANTED TO SAY, IT'S PRETTY COOL YOU AGREED TO LET YOUR NEPHEW STAY WITH YOU ALL YEAR.
I GUESS YOU AND ZACK HAVE A REAL SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.


WE SURE DO.
HOW'D YOU TWO GET SO CLOSE? DID YOU VISIT HIM IN TEXAS MUCH? IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HIM AS A LITTLE GUY.
IT SURE IS.
WHAT WAS HE LIKE AS A LITTLE BOY? WAS HE ALWAYS A SWEET-TALKER, OR DID THAT HAPPEN LATER?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT A COOKIE YOURSELF, TY?
NO, THANK YOU, MA'AM.
A'S


BE HONEST— HOW GREAT WAS I?
DON'T GET COCKY. YOU'VE GOT TWO MORE MATCHES.
WHERE'D TYLER AND BODE GO?
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT NOT EVERYONE CAN PUT THEIR LIFE ON HOLD TO WATCH YOU STAB PEOPLE.
HE'S TAKING BODE HOME. HE'S BEEN MOODY. HE'S OBSESSED WITH THE DARK LADY. YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S BEEN DOING?
HE MADE A CALENDAR OF EVERY TIME WE HAD TO FIGHT THE DARK LADY IN FEBRUARY. I'M, LIKE, WHY?
BUT HE DOESN'T SAY BECAUSE HE'S COMPLETELY PARANOID. HE DOESN'T TRUST ANYONE SINCE JORDAN BROKE UP WITH HIM, NOT ME, NOT YOU, NOT—
—WHAT'S UP? WHERE YOU GOING? YOU HAVE ANOTHER MATCH IN A COUPLE.
I KNOW. I BETTER HURRY IF I'M GOING TO HIT THE CAN.
LOCKER ROO

HEY—HI, RUFUS. I—WELL, BODE—FOUND YOUR ACTION GUY. JACK NIFE. I GUESS YOU LEFT HIM AT OUR HOUSE. SORRY HE GOT BROKE.
THANK YOU, SIR
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM ANYWAY?
THE ENEMY AMBUSHED HIM.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IN WAR. PEOPLE GET KILLED.
YEAH, UM... YEAH
PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY, SIR.
UM. PERMISSION GRANTED.
THIS HOUSE ISN'T SAFE, SIR. YOU'RE IN ENEMY TERRITORY. I WOULD RETREAT.
STAY WITH RUFUS, BODE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



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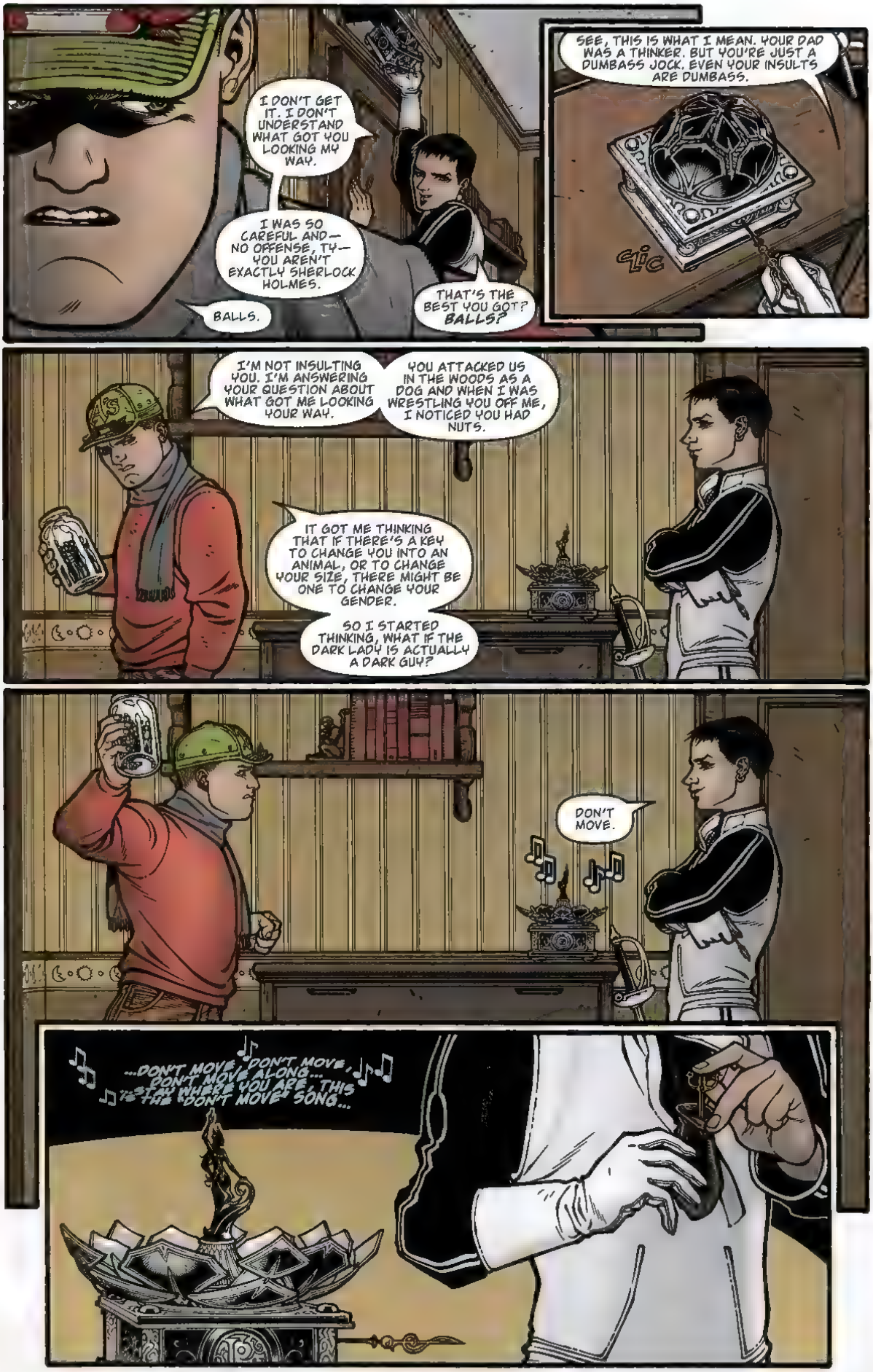
I DON'T GET IT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT GOT YOU LOOKING MY WAY.
I WAS SO CAREFUL AND— NO OFFENSE, TY— YOU AREN'T EXACTLY SHERLOCK HOLMES.
BALLS.
THAT'S THE BEST YOU GOT? BALLS?
SEE, THIS IS WHAT I MEAN. YOUR DAD WAS A THINKER. BUT YOU'RE JUST A DUMBASS JOCK. EVEN YOUR INSULTS ARE DUMBASS.
CLIC
I'M NOT INSULTING YOU. I'M ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION ABOUT WHAT GOT ME LOOKING YOUR WAY.
YOU ATTACKED US IN THE WOODS AS A DOG AND WHEN I WAS WRESTLING YOU OFF ME, I NOTICED YOU HAD NUTS.
IT GOT ME THINKING THAT IF THERE'S A KEY TO CHANGE YOU INTO AN ANIMAL, OR TO CHANGE YOUR SIZE, THERE MIGHT BE ONE TO CHANGE YOUR GENDER.
SO I STARTED THINKING, WHAT IF THE DARK LADY IS ACTUALLY A DARK GUY?
DON'T MOVE.
...DON'T MOVE, DON'T MOVE, DON'T MOVE ALONG... SO WHERE YOU ARE, THIS IS THE "DON'T MOVE" SONG...

YOU CAN TALK IF YOU WANT. I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOME THINGS TO SAY.
WHY DON'T YOU START BY TELLING ME WHERE THE OMEGA KEY IS?
...YOU CAN TALK, YOU CAN TALK, WE CAN HAVE A LITTLE CHAT... ...AS LONG AS YOU SAY WHERE THE OMEGA KEY IS AT...
NICE TRY, BUT I USED MY HEAD FOR ONCE. THAT THING CAN SING ALL IT WANTS, YOU'RE STILL NOT GOING TO GET WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF ME.
WELLS LOVECRAFT
I WAS WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MUSIC BOX. THAT THING ALMOST GOT ME AND BODE KILLED.
WELL, IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED AND ALL THAT.
I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHY THE MUSIC WON'T MAKE YOU SPILL THE BEANS. EVERYONE DANCES AND SINGS TO THE MUSIC.
BUT IF YOU WON'T TELL ME EASY, TY, I'M COMFORTABLE WITH CUTTING THE TRUTH OUT OF YOU.
WHAT, WITH YOUR TOURNAMENT FOIL? HAVE FUN, THAT THING WOULDN'T CUT THROUGH—
AA!
NO, THIS IS MY OTHER SWORD. THE ONE WITH THE SHARP TIP. I LEFT MY TOURNAMENT FOIL BACK AT THE GYM.
YOU KNOW I WAS A TERRIBLE FENCER UNTIL I USED THE HEAD KEY TO LEARN THE MOVES OF THE GREATS. I STUCK A VIDEOTAPE IN MY HEAD. EVERYONE USED VIDEOTAPE THEN.

CHONG CHANG CHONG
DON'T MAKE ME POP YOUR EYEBALL OUT.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S HERE. YOU GOING TO CUT ME UP WHILE YOU'VE GOT VISITORS?
DON'T MOVE.
...DON'T MOVE, DON'T MOVE, STAY LIKE YOU'RE STUCK WITH A TACK... ...DON'T MOVE, DON'T MOVE, DODGE WILL KILL YOU WHEN HE GETS BACK...
AUNTIE ELLIE! WHO'S THAT?
ZACK? WHEN DID YOU GET HERE? DID YOU SNEAK IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING?
THAT BOY. COMES AND GOES AT ALL HOURS, AS HE PLEASES, NEVER SEE HIM WALKING IN, NEVER SEE HIM WALKING OUT.
I SWEAR, SOMETIMES IT'S ALMOST LIKE MAGIC.

Locke & Key created by J.H.+G.R.

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DETECTIVES - PART 1

NEXT ISSUE #6
KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
LOCKE&KEY

THE
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